

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please substitute the heading and abstract beginning at Page 16, line 1 with the following replacement text:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

~~The invention relates to a~~ A preferably tubular food casing based on synthetic material, in particular polyamide, is provided, in which the layer, or at least one of the layers, includes at least one metal salt having antimicrobially active metal ions. The metal salt preferably includes ions of silver, copper or zinc. In the event of a multi-layered casing, the at least one outer layer ~~comprises~~ includes ~~a~~ said the metal salt. In the production of the casing, preferably a master batch is used which ~~comprises~~ includes about 5 to 40% by weight of the metal salt. The food casing is preferably used as artificial sausage casing.